Vol # 4

RCT-1 Newsletter

Aug 07, 2004

Serving The Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers of RCT-1 – Committed to Security, & Peace Produced b

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM-1 MISSION:

Neutralize destabilizing influences by the combined efforts of RCT-1 forces and the ISF. Non-compliant forces will be located and defeated IOT provide a stable environment for economic development, public safety, and local governance.

It is not the US who preaches jihad, encourages its young men to be suicide bombers, kills innocents with their car bombs. It is the Munifakin who do this. They are nothing but criminals, thugs, and punks. We, the honorable men and women of RCT 1 remain the best hope for peace and stability in today's free Iraq. We will pursue and destroy the enemy wherever he hides. He is a coward, and will be brought to justice or die a coward's death.

SECURITY BADGES - SCRUTINIZE

CHECK THIS OUT! Look at the badge below. If your were a bouncer at a night club, would you accept this ID? I hope not. This guy misspelled business!! He lists himself as a "Public Relations Liable". What is that? How about the "date of piercing". Let's hope that we would all be smart enough to spot this garbage.

When you check an ID card, CHECK IT!!! Be alert.

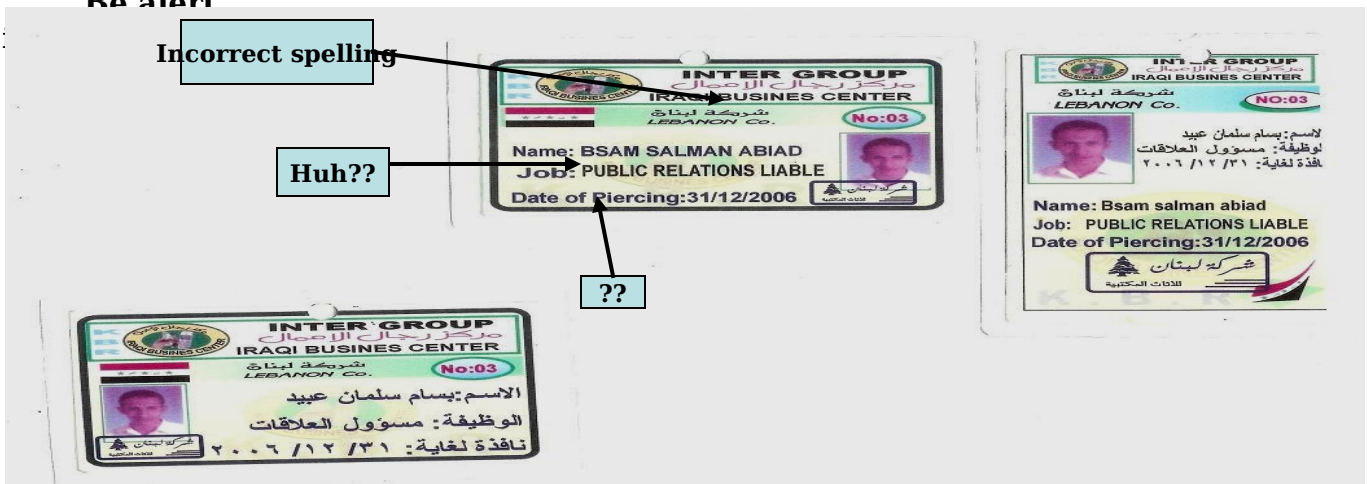
OPERATIONAL SECURITY

OPSEC (Operational Security has become a problem for for us. We continue to talk about our operations in the chow hall and in the PX. Our inability to keep a secret may cost a fellow Marine, Sailor or Soldier's life. As the poster says "How about a nice big cup of SHUT THE HELL UP?"

MAIL: Do you really want the enemy to know your home address? When you get a letter or package, pull off the address label (both the TO and the FROM) and put it in a burn bag. This isn't some made up story cents; the bad guys will get this information and use it against our families. Be vigilant, be smart.

Operating Principle – Photos of deceased

We are not the bad guys. We are the professionals! They take pictures of our dead and use them for political purposes. We won't. We cannot become them". No one from this Regiment will take photos of any deceased or injured Iraqi unless it is taken for intelligence purposes. In that case, the image will be turned over to the S2, and will then be erased from your personal computer or camera. Taking pictures of war dead is a violation of the Geneva Convention, and we won't allow that in our



THE IRAQI SECURITY FORCES (ISF) … THEIR SACRIFICES

Many patriotic Iraqis proudly and bravely serve their country every day. Many have given their lives for the dream of a free Iraq during the past few months. Their sacrifices in the struggle for a democratic Iraq are noteworthy. We should pause to remember that:

Between 01 Jan and 14 July, 2004, there were 132 ISF members killed or wounded by VBIEDs, and another 160 killed or wounded by IED. The ISF have captured several terrorists including a top associate of Abu Musaib Zarqawi. The media and the public are often unaware that members of the ING have risked their lives to save our fellow Marines. Most notably three members were awarded the Navy Marine Commendation Medal with Combat V for saving the life of a Marine during a gunfight in Al Karmah. All three of these Iraqi soldiers but themselves in the line of fire to drag a wounded Marine to safety.

YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since you arrived in March, your hard work and sacrifice has produced the following for the Iraqi people.

a. Built or renovated *THIRTY-FOUR (34) schools* for Iraqi children

b. Built or renovated *ELEVEN (11) clinics*.

c. Completed *TWENTY-FOUR (24) water projects*, supplying thousands of Iraqis with safe drinking water for the first time in decades.

d. Renovated and refurbished apartment buildings in NW Fallujah at a cost of $500,000

e. Renovated or built *TEN (10) PUBLIC BUILDINGS* including city council buildings.

f. Paid approximately *$3.5 million in claims* across the AO to compensate Iraqis for a variety of losses.

g. India Base has trained more than 1300 Iraqi Security Forces for service in various branches.

On a much larger scale:

- **OIL PRODUCTION/EXPORT: Is expected to surpass pre-war levels while and ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION has also improved (Fallujah is an exception).**
- **THE IRAQI STOCK EXHANGE OPENED FOR STOCK TRADING – Signaling a return of the financial markets and a revitalization of the financial sector. 20(+) stocks were available for public trading on the opening day.**
- **A NEW DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED and is taking positive steps to improve security within Iraq.**

THE EFFORTS OF THE MARINES, SOLDIERS AND SAILORS OF RCT-1 ARE HAVING AN IMPACT. KEEP

FINISH STRONG

UP THE GREAT WORK.

Now more than ever, it is critical to ensure that we all take care of each other and abide by established guidelines. Don't let your guard down now. Remember when you first arrived here? Your alert level was high, you looked at every movement, wondered what was behind every wall, every bush. Are you still that alert? Bullets and IEDs don't care how long you've been in Iraq. Stay focused to the end. "Not one more member of the INCHON family lost:. Make that your motto. Be aggressive. We don't play defense in RCT 1. Attack each day and never let down your guard (or your fellow Marines, Soldiers, and Sailors). **DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE RESLOVE OF THE ENEMY**. **COMPLACENCY KILLS**. Remember, everybody fights..... nobody quits**.** That means that we play hard until the buzzer sounds. Drive the opponent into the deck and never let up. This is life and death and you all

"WAR TROPHIES"

Picture this … A Marine endures seven months in Iraq having done a superb job. It's time to load up and return home. He jumps off a 7- ton, lays out his sea bag and Mollie pack on the deck ... He awaits patiently as the dogs begin to sniff thru the lines of sea bags to ensure no unauthorized war souvenirs. The thought - "there are hundreds of us, and only a couple of dogs, they don't have time to check every bag." But sure enough, they stop at THE bag. Behold … The "cool" souvenir you thought would make a great gift or display piece for the mantle back home ruins an otherwise superb deployment ... Possibly a career …

The 1ST MARDIV and the RCT-1 have clearly defined policies regarding "War Trophies" – there are several items that are authorized, such as bayonets, a spent shell, etc. No personal items are authorized (an Iraqi ID card, a uniform, etc). If you are uncertain or have any doubts about whether the item you have is authorized, jut ask. Please don't make a mistake that will cost you NJP and rank. All you have to do is bring the item to your platoon commander who will take it up to the first LtCol in your chain of command. That officer will sign a form which approves the item and you can take it home. If he disapproves the item, you go home without it, but you keep your rank and your full paycheck!!!! Think about it. Just ask.

Just so you know…….. Last year a Marine acquired a "Trophy" that exploded aboa ship he was returning home on. This "trophy" turned out to be a DPICM bomblet! you stay stupid?? He ended up injuring several of his fellow Marines..

TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

CO's CORNER

The RCT 1 team which hovered close to 7,000 Marines, sailors and soldiers is making history. You have established a presence in Iraq that has kept the terrorists and criminals on the run. The pride, and professional behavior you demonstrate every single day has won over thousands of honest Iraqi citizens and set the foundation for developing mutual trust. This trust has led to positive growth for the fledgling democracy in Iraq. It will continue to grow and prosper because of you. Look at the progress described earlier in this newsletter. One day you can all proudly attribute a little bit of that success to your efforts. If you ask the good people of our area, the decent, honest Iraqis, they'll say that they are better off than they were before you started helping them. We have paid dearly for their freedom; some of our brothers have paid with their lives; and we will never forget their sacrifices. The Iraqis have contributed as well. It is the Iraqi Security Forces who now bear the brunt of the terrorist attacks. We share a common cause with them. We must work as a team to stabilize Iraq; they to establish their democracy, and we to maintain ours. The terrorist who are here will go to the United States if we let them. Our choice is simple. Kill them here or kill them at home. Our mission is vital to the security of our families back home. Your work is nothing less than the protection of the ideal of freedom. I continue to be humbled by your bravery, your dedication, and your compassion. I am hopeful for the future of our country, because never have I witnessed a commitment and a courage as I have seen portrayed among you. You truly are the best that our nation has to offer. Continue to look for opportunities to help the Iraqi people. Remember "No better friend, No worse enemy." This is our challenge. We will not fall short. I am proud to have served with this team. Thank you